

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
Public Service Commission

---

FORTY LOVE POINT  
HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

---

Docket no. 2018-358-WS  
APPLICATION OF CAROLINA WATER SERVICE, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF  
ANNUAL RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISMS AND PETITION FOR  
ACCOUNTING

---

**COMMENTS ON MOTION TO BYPASS  
SC code 58-5-240(F)**

---

FORTY LOVE POINT HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, LOCATED NEAR  
CHAPIN, SOUTH CAROLINA, (a water distribution customer and wastewater  
removal customer of Blue Granite) comments on Blue Granite's motion to bypass  
South Carolina Code section 58-5-240(F) as follows:

:

1. **ALL REQUESTS TO INCREASE CUSTOMERS' WATER BILLS  
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED INCREASES IN THE TARIFF.** Blue Granite  
should not be allowed to implement any increases in the customers' bills  
unless that increase is included or anticipated by the most recent tariff  
approved by the Public Service Commission.
2. **HARBOR ISLAND CASE CITED BY BLUE GRANITE REFERS BACK  
TO THE TARIFF INVOLVED.** In Harbor Island docket number 2016-29-  
WS, the tariff involved includes a provision that the water company may  
pass on increases in the wholesale bulk water cost directly to the  
consumer, after notifying the Public Service Commission and giving a 30-  
day notice.

That paragraph states:

5. Wholesale Water Increases Pass Through

Company may pass through increases in wholesale water rates  
from Beaufort-Jasper Water 8r. Sewer Authority to customers after  
giving them at least 30 days\* notice and also providing notice and  
proof of the increase to the Public Service Commission of South  
Carolina. (Tariff portion of settlement agreement, Docket number  
2016-29-WS.)

3. **WITH BOTH OCEAN LAKES AND HARBOR ISLAND, THE UTILITIES HAD NOT REQUESTED A GENERAL RATE INCREASE IN OVER TEN YEARS.** In both the Ocean Lakes case (2013-380-S) and the Harbor Island case (2016-29-WS), the utilities had gone ten years without filing for a general rate increase.

Under circumstances such as these, with a much smaller customer base, it made sense to allow Ocean Lakes to pass through its water and sewer charges directly using a 30-day notice to customers. The exception to 58-240(F) makes sense here.

Carolina Water Service/Blue Granite has a history of asking for general rate increases at least once every two years. The water company is well able to incorporate a request for an automatic pass-through mechanism in its next request for a general rate increase.

Respectfully submitted by,

05/15/2019

/s/ Laura P. Valtorta  
 Laura P. Valtorta, Esquire  
 VALTORTA LAW OFFICE  
 903 Calhoun Street  
 Columbia, SC 29201  
 Laurapv@aol.com  
 (803) 771-0828

Frank R. Ellerbe III, Esquire  
 Samuel J. Wellborn, Esquire  
 ROBINSON GRAY STEPP & LAFITTE, LLC  
 1310 Gadsden Street  
 Columbia, SC 29201  
 (803)929-1400  
[fellerbe@robinsongray.com](mailto:fellerbe@robinsongray.com)  
[swellborn@robinsongray.com](mailto:swellborn@robinsongray.com)

Jeffrey Nelson  
 Andrew Bateman  
 South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff  
 P.O. Box 11263  
 Columbia, SC 29211  
 803-737-0877  
[jnelson@regstaff.sc.gov](mailto:jnelson@regstaff.sc.gov)  
[abateman@ors.sc.gov](mailto:abateman@ors.sc.gov)

Becky Dover, esquire

[bdover@scconsumer.gov](mailto:bdover@scconsumer.gov)  
South Carolina Consumer Affairs  
2221 Devine Street  
Columbia, SC 29206  
(803) 734-4188